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LIMDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

.. PORTUGUESE MOVES TOWARD ISRAEL BRING ARAB ENTREATIES

THE ARAB COUNTRIES, LED BY LIBYA AND EGYPT, ARE APPLYING PRESSURE AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE SOCIALISTS IN AN ATTEMPT TO PREVENT PORTUGUESE RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL. EMBASSY LISBON REPORTS:

--SOCIALIST PARTY OFFICIAL RUI MATEUS HAS RECEIVED ENTREATIES AND IMPLIED THREATS FROM THE ARABS.

--ISRAELI CONSUL GENERAL YASSOUR HAS EXPRESSED OPTIMISM ABOUT NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE INTENT OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT TO
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ESTABLISH FULL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IS CLEAR.

ONLY THE TIMING IS IN QUESTION. (CONFIDENTIAL) LISBON 5381;
5384, 8/9 AND (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) LISBON 5240, 8/4.)

2. MADRID: EC SI, NATO MAYBE

IN AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED AUGUST 6, SPANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OREJA SAID THAT HE SEES GREAT ADVANTAGES AND GREAT INCONVENIENCES IN NATO MEMBERSHIP AND THAT THE QUESTION IS BEING STUDIED CAREFULLY.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OREJA REMINDS US THAT THERE IS STILL NO AGREED GOS POLICY ON THIS ISSUE, AND THERE PROBABLY WILL NOT BE UNTIL AFTER THE PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. THIS CONTRASTS SPAIN'S STRONGLY HELD DETERMINATION TO PRESS FORWARD WITH EFFORTS TO GAIN ADMISSION TO THE EC. (CONFIDENTIAL) MADRID 6106, 8/9.)

3. JAPAN: OPPOSITION TO MIKI BUILDS

PRIME MINISTER MIKI HAS ANNOUNCED ONCE AGAIN HIS INTENTION TO REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL THE LOCKHEED INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. AT THE SAME TIME FINANCE MINISTER OHIRA PUBLICLY JOINED WITH DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA IN CALLING FOR A "FRESH START" FOR THE LDP.

EMBASSY COMMENT: OHIRA'S STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR HIS ARCH-RIVAL MARKED AN IMPORTANT NEW AND--FOR MIKI--OMINOUS STEP. HOW OR ON WHAT GROUNDS FUKUDA AND OHIRA WILL MOUNT THEIR CHALLENGE REMAINS TO BE SEEN, BUT THEY ARE DETERMINED TO SUCCEED BEFORE AN EXTRAORDINARY DIET SESSION IS CALLED. (CONFIDENTIAL) TOKYO 11951, 8/9.)

4. BANGLADESH: MORE ARMS ALONG THE GANGES?

ON AUGUST 9 BANGLADESH FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN SUBMITTED TO AMBASSADOR BOSTER AN UPDATED MILITARY EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS LIST. ACCORDING TO THE FOREIGN SECRETARY, THE BDG FEELS THAT THE USG MIGHT BE MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR MILITARY NEEDS FOLLOWING ADMIRAL KHAN'S RECENT CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON. THE AMBASSADOR MADE IT CLEAR THAT THIS WILL
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BE A DIFFICULT DECISION FOR THE USG, AND THAT THE US WAS MORE COMFORTABLE WITH OTHER FORMS OF AID TO BANGLADESH THAN WITH SUPPLYING MILITARY EQUIPMENT. (SECRET) DACCA 4055 (LIMDIS), 8/9.)

5. INDIA: ALL TALK BUT NO NEW ACTIONS

EMBASSY NEW DELHI REPORTS THE POLITICAL WIRES ARE HUMMING

UNUSUALLY LOUDLY. AMONG FACTORS THE EMBASSY CITES AS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GOSSIP:

--INCREASED ARRESTS IN BUJARAT, BIHAR AND THE PUNJAB;

--A COUNTRY-WIDE INCREASE IN LABOR UNREST AND TENSION;

--A SPATE OF RUMORS, PROBABLY BASED ON SOME FACT, OF DISAFFECTION BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER GANDHI AND PRESIDENT AHMED; AND

--REPORTS OF A PLANNED FAST-TO-DEATH BY VINOBE BHAVE, ONE OF INDIA'S MOST RESPECTED "SAINTS."

EMBASSY COMMENT: AS THE EMERGENCY BECOMES ROUTINE, WHAT ENTHUSIASM THERE WAS FOR IT HAS PROGRESSIVELY FADED, AND CYNICISM AND APATHY HAVE BECOME MORE MARKED. NONETHELESS, THE PRIME MINISTER'S POSITION REMAINS UNSHAKEN. (CONFIDENTIAL) NEW DELHI 11564, 8/6.)

6. DISSENT IN PERUVIAN MILITARY

EMBASSY LIMA HAS BEEN TOLD BY A MILITARY SOURCE THAT THE PERUVIAN ARMY FACES SERIOUS DISSENSION AT THE MAJOR AND CAPTAIN LEVEL. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE:

--THE DISSIDENTS CLAIM THE "ARMY" SHOULD HAVE BEEN CONSULTED ON THE RECENT DECISION TO REMOVE PRIME MINISTER MALDONADO.

--FIVE HUNDRED MIDDLE LEVEL OFFICERS HAVE ISSUED A MANIFESTO CALLING FOR THE RESIGNATION OF MORALES BERMUDEZ AND ALL FIVE ARMY REGIONAL COMMANDERS.

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EMBASSY COMMENT: THERE IS CERTAINLY SMOKE WITHIN THE ARMY, BUT EFFORTS ARE BEING MADE TO PREVENT FIRE. (CONFIDENTIAL) LIMA 7138 (LIMDIS), 8/6. ROBINSON

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